



**BELIEF IN THE MOST
UNBELIEVABLE OF ALL**
Last Sunday of the Church Year

Bethany Lutheran Church | Port Orchard, WA

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

November 25, 2018

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer Him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God's holy and powerful Word and celebrate His life-giving Sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with Him.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED

To participate in this service, just follow along in this service folder. Lutheran worship is specifically designed to include the participation of the assembly. We are not here to be an audience, we are here to speak and sing the Word of God to each other. Parts marked P are spoken by the pastor, and parts marked C are spoken/sung by the congregation.

A NOTE ON COMMUNION

Bethany practices "close communion." Close communion is the biblical practice of admitting to communion only members in good standing of our congregation and those who are completely united with the congregation in faith and understanding. Close communion protects those who do not understand the danger of communing without self-examination or without recognizing the presence of the Lord's body and blood with the bread and wine, and preserves the intimate unity expressed by communing with one another.

CLOSE COMMUNION, cont'd

Therefore, we invite all members in good standing of an Evangelical Lutheran Synod or Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregation to join in Holy Communion with us, and we ask that all others please refrain and speak to one of our pastors for more information or if you are interested in joining our church. Thank you for respecting our teachings. Communicants, please remember to sign the communion register.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher	Pastor Tony Pittenger
Organist	Mrs. Cathy Sharrett
Ushers 8:15	<u>Team 5</u> (Morrison)
Ushers 11	<u>Team 14</u> (Nesseth)
Acolytes 8:15	Ethan/Brendan Kemp, Callahan Gaskins
Acolytes 11	Sarah/Emilie Circelli, Ben Patterson, Justin Sievers
Greeters 8:15	Nick & Arin Starkel
Greeters 11	TBA
Communion Assistant 8:15	Doug Seals
Communion Assistant 11	Shu-Ting Lai
Elder on duty this week	Spencer Gaskins

 HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE – please ask for a receiver at the usher station

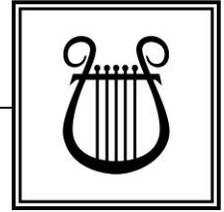
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THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Rite II responses I, page 60-85 in The Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary)

(please stand)



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won | 201

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

CONFESSION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: ♪ **Who made heav'n and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: ♪ **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

C: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: I ask each of you, in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

C: **I do.**

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in His name?

C: **I do.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. May He comfort your heart by His holy Absolution, and strengthen you by His Sacraments, that your joy may be full. Peace be with you!

C: **Amen.**

be seated

INTROIT:

P: I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

GLORIA PATRI

C: ♪ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

KYRIE

C: ♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

C: ♪ **Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,
we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For You only are holy. You only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

SALUTATION:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

COLLECT:

P: Let us pray:

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son we pray, that He may lead home His Bride, the Church, that we with all Your saints may enter into Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD



please stand

P: The Holy Gospel for the last Sunday of the church year is written in the 25th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the 1st verse.

C: ♪ **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:1-13 (ESV)

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P: This is the Holy Gospel of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C: ♪ **Praise be to You, O Christ!**

GRADUAL

P: Alleluia! O Lord, deal with Your servant according to Your mercy and teach me Your statutes. I am Your servant, give me understanding: that I may know Your testimonies. Alleluia!

C: ♪ **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

NICENE CREED

C: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy

Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

be seated

THE SERMON HYMN

Great God, What do I See and Hear? | 604

EPISTLE LESSON & SERMON TEXT

I Corinthians 15:50-58 (ESV)

I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

SERMON

BELIEF IN THE MOST UNBELIEVABLE OF ALL

please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Now let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Almighty and eternal God, we give You humble and sincere thanks for the innumerable blessings that You have bestowed on us without any merit or worthiness on our part.

C: We praise You especially for preserving for us Your saving Word and Holy Sacraments.

P: In these days of our own pastoral vacancy we pray You to preserve to Your Holy Church here and throughout the world purity of doctrine,

C: And provide faithful pastors to preach Your Word in all of its life-changing power.

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, bestow Your grace on all nations of the earth.

C: Bless especially our country, its inhabitants and all who are in authority.

P: Let Your glory dwell in our land, that mercy and truth, righteousness and peace may abound in all places.

C: Bless also all who serve in our armed forces, that they may serve with integrity and honor.

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Compassionate Lord, graciously defend us from all calamity by fire and water, from war and pestilence, from scarcity and famine, and from every other evil. Protect and prosper all who labor in their rightful callings, and let all useful arts flourish among us.

C: Be the God and Father of the lonely and the forsaken, the Helper of the sick and needy, the Comforter of the distressed and those who sorrow.

P: Look with mercy especially upon those who have requested our prayers, [*including _____*],] that they may ever cling to Jesus as their sure and certain hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Father, as we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, help us by true faith and a godly life to prepare for the world to come, doing the work You have given us to do while it is day, before the night comes when no one can work.

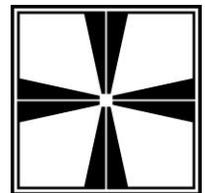
C: And when our last hour comes, support us by Your power, and receive us into Your heavenly Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

be seated

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

OFFERING

This is a moment in our worship when members and friends of Bethany Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support His saving work. If you are a guest with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate.



CHOIR HYMN (8:15 only)

'Rejoice O Bethany'
(Lyrics reprinted below)

1. Rejoice, rejoice, O Bethany!
On this day God came to thee,
And in Him the dead are made alive,
As it is right for He is the Life.

2. When Martha went to receive Him,
Grieving loudly with bitter tears,
She poured out the sorrow of her heart to Him
With great sadness, wailing her lament.

3. She at once cried out unto Him:
"My most compassionate Lord, my Lord,
At the great loss of my brother Lazarus
My heart is broken, help me."

4. Jesus said to her, "Cease your weeping,
Cease your grieving and sad lament;
For your brother, My most beloved friend, Lazarus,
Very soon will live again."

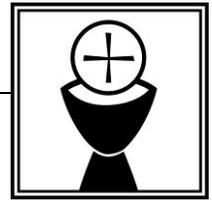
5. Then He, the faithful Redeemer,
Made His way unto the tomb,
Where He cried unto him who was buried four days,
Calling him forth, saying "Lazarus, arise."

6. Come with haste, ye two sisters,
And behold a wondrous thing,
For your brother from the tomb has returned to life.
To the beloved Redeemer now give thanks.

7. To Thee, O Lord of creation,
We kneel down in reverence profound,
For all we who are dead in sin,
In Thee, O Jesus, are made alive.

please stand

THE SACRAMENT



PREFACE/PROPER PREFACE

- P: The Lord be with you.
C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: ♪ **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C: ♪ **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In the confession of the only true God we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty co-equal. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (HOLY, HOLY, HOLY)

- C: ♪ **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil,

C: ♪ For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying; "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ Amen.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

**C: ♪ O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
Grant us Your peace. Amen.**

be seated

DISTRIBUTION *(visitors, please note our communion practice on page 2)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide | **292**

For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest | **463**

NUNC DIMITTIS

**C: ♪ Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word.
For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
which You have prepared before the face of all people,
A Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: ♪ **And His mercy endures forever.**

P: Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

please stand

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you †peace.

C: ♪ **Amen, amen, amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | **648**

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11/25	8:15 am & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
MONDAY, 11/26	7:00 pm Worship
TUESDAY, 11/27	6:30 pm <u>Voter's Meeting (reconvene)</u>
WEDNESDAY, 11/28	8:20 am BLES Chapel 3:30 pm Jr. Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Choir
SUNDAY, 12/2	8:15 am & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School for all ages 12:00 pm - 4:00pm Church/Tree Decorating; Youth Group Christmas party

THE RECORD

Flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Mary Erickson.

Last Sunday 199 of God's people came to worship and hear His holy Word. 45 attended Sunday School and Adult Bible Class.

Thank you to all who gave so generously of non-perishables and cash for November's holiday food drive. 9 families were helped! Cash donations for Christmas baskets will be accepted through Dec. 16th and may be left in the office.

Farewell from the Locklairs: *Thank you to our Bethany family for all your love and support! There is much sorrow as we part and yet also much joy in our shared bond. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. May our gracious Lord bless and keep you.*

Until we meet again, Pastor, Kallie, Jahleel, Camden, and Peyton

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

"The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Corinthians 9:6)

NOVEMBER VOTERS MEETING

RECONVENES THIS TUESDAY 11/27 AT 6:30PM.

All voting members of the congregation are needed, please be sure to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM SIGN UP TIME

deadline 12/1

- The 2018 Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, 12/23 at 11:00am.
- Practices will be held during the Sunday School hour on 12/2, 12/9 & 12/16.
- Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Parents must sign up students by Saturday 12/1 in order for them to participate.
- Help is needed, please speak with Pastor Pittenger if you can assist in any way.

YOUTH GROUP-TREE DECORATING/PARTY

next Sunday 12/2 | 12-4pm

Tis the season to be jolly and merry by decorating the church Christmas Chrismon tree, sanctuary & narthex. Please bring a soda to share; pizza will be provided. Also please bring a white elephant gift valued at \$6 or less. Parent chaperones/helpers will be needed! Q? Call Pastor.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS HELP URGENTLY NEEDED

Saturday 12/8 | 10am-4pm

"Story, song, lunch & crafts---while parents have time to shop and wrap!" Our annual Christmas VBS is a chance for kids to experience the story of Jesus' birth with a day full of fun activities. Sign up to help today on the storage closet door—In order to host this event we must have a full team to serve the nearly 100 students who typically attend. Please sign up TODAY (sheets are posted on the storage closet door) so planning can go forward.

TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS STILL NEEDED FOR OUR LIVESTREAM TEAM

today!

Sign up on the storage closet door to assist Pastor in livestreaming our services. With about six more helpers, everyone will only need to be 'on duty' a few Sundays each year—to turn equipment on/off and monitor the system. Speak to Pastor for full details! Recruit your friends!

SCHOLASTIC WAREHOUSE DAYS

12/3-14

Volunteer and earn at least \$80 of books for Bethany—and another \$80 of books for your family! Melissa is driving—sign up on the school hall door or church bulletin board.



THRIVENT MATCHES DISASTER DONATIONS:

Through December 31, 2018, Thrivent Financial will match individual personal contributions made to specific disaster relief organizations helping with the aftermath of Hurricane Florence. Visit Thrivent.com to learn more and donate.



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www.bethanylutheranes.org | <http://facebook.com/Bethany.Kitsap>

Worship Schedule: Sunday 8:15 & 11am; Monday 7:00pm; Sunday School for all ages 9:45am